

A Soldier of Many Shades

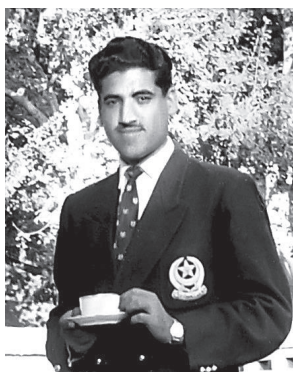
(The story of a Captain Abdul Jalil, Sitara e Jurat, an enthusiast for martyrdom, looking for an opportunity ...which he got during 1965 war)

By Dr. Ahmad Ali



Capt Abdul Jalil
(Source: Author)

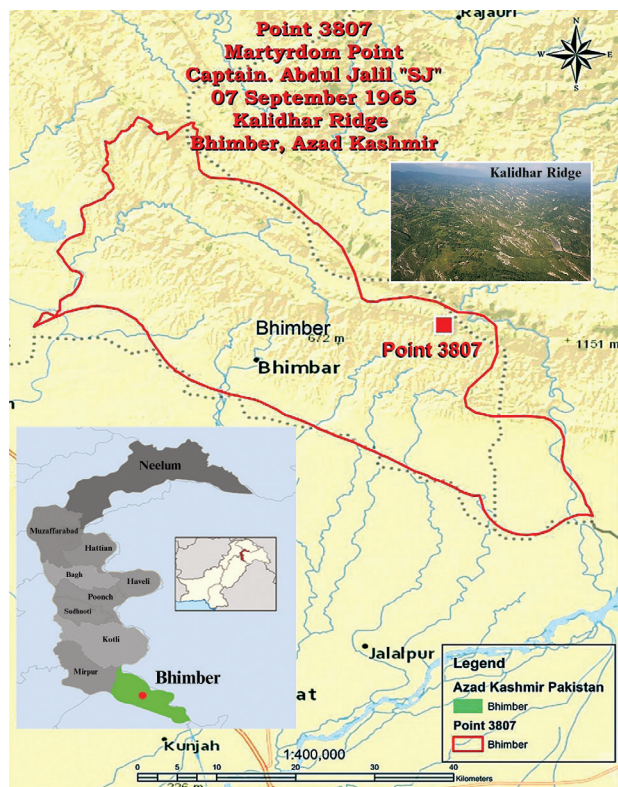
Only extraordinary persons can turn opportunity into reality, and Abdul Jalil was one of them. Born in Peshawar in 1931, Abdul Jalil always sought to do different from others. He had a brilliant academic career as a student, he was an amateur singer, passionate traveller and an excellent athlete. During college days, Abdul Jalil made a record in pole vault which remained unbroken for many years. But it was a divine order that Abdul Jalil would join the Army, and make another record. After being commissioned from Officers' Training School (OTS) Kohat in 1958, and serving as an education officer for a few years, Abdul Jalil finally landed in an infantry regiment¹ (3 Punjab) in 1961. Captain Abdul Jalil was a versatile officer who was destined to create history in his military career.



At OTS Kohat
(Source: Author)

Indo-Pak War of 1965 & Attack on Point 3807

Before Indo-Pak war in 1965, Captain Abdul Jalil was deputed to 14 Azad Kashmir Regiment as company commander. On the night of 06-07 September 1965, Charlie Company under his command, was given the mission to capture enemy's post at point 3807 (Kalidhar)² in Azad Kashmir, which overlooked Pakistani



Map: Location of martyrdom of Capt Abdul Jalil Shaheed (point 3807)
(Source: Author)

military positions and movements, posing a serious threat. In order to gain the upper hand, Captain Abdul Jalil was deputed to the right forward company for this operation, to capture enemy's post. Shelling from the enemy side became intense when his company was only a 100 yards from the target. He kept moving in the battlefield with slogans *Nara e Takbeer*, *Allah O Akbar*. He led his men and attacked the enemy's bunker. After capturing the first, he didn't stop and moved to the second bunker.³ During this charge an enemy machine gun burst struck his chest. He fell but kept encouraging his men. His last words were "we must destroy every enemy in this post". He embraced martyrdom on 07 September 1965, the dream of so many, but only chosen ones could achieve. Captain Abdul



Dr Muhammad Ali standing in line to receive SJ of Capt Abdul Jalil shaheed from FM Ayub Khan (Source: Author)



Grave of Capt Abdul Jalil shaheed

(Source: Author)

Jalil was posthumously awarded *Sitara-i-Jurat* for this utmost sacrifice.⁴ Dr. Muhammad Ali⁵ received the military award of Captain Abdul Jalil from President Field Marshal Muhammad Ayub Khan in 1966.

Captain Abdul Jalil was buried at his

family cemetery at Peshawar with military honours. Captain Jalil once said to his friend, “If I die, I want to die like a soldier, fighting on the battlefield, not on the way to the battlefield and being hit by some bullet or bomb before the war starts”. And he fulfilled his commitment.

Notes

1. Posting/Transfer from AEC to infantry 3 Punjab GHQ letter No 0389/26/MS-4C dated 13 July 1961.
2. History of Azad Kashmir Regiment, volume II, 232-233.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Father of Dr Ahmad Ali, author of the article.

About the author



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